REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are now pending in the application with Claims 14-18 being withdrawn. Claims 1, 8, 19, 22, 23, 28 and 29 have been amended. Bases for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-13 and 19-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8, 19, 22, 23, 28 and 29 to overcome this rejection.

With regard to the amendments to independent Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28, support for these amendments can be found in Applicants' specification as filed. Applicants have further amended Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 to specify that the majority of the flange (18), as shown in Figure 34, is wetted to form the weldment. As noted, support for these amendments can be found in at least the last line of paragraph [0020], and in Figure 3A as originally filed, and thus, this amendment does not constitute new matter. More specifically, at least paragraph [0020] states that the weldment (24) is formed by wetting a majority of the flange (18), and Figure 3A shows that the weldment (24) is along a majority of the base (B) of the flange (18) and the sheet metal surface (12).

In addition, with particular regard to Claim 28, Claim 28 has been amended to recite the body portion having a thickness of "no greater than 5mm." Support for this

amendment can be found in at least line 5 of paragraph [0018], and thus, this amendment does not constitute new matter. Further, Claim 28 has been amended to remove the reference to "rigid."

As newly amended Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 would reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art Applicants' claims herein, and are supported by Applicants' specification and claims as originally filed, Applicants' respectfully submit Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Regarding Claim 22, this claim has been amended to include the second thickness being between "greater than or equal to 0.5 mm and 5 mm." Support for this amendment can be found in at least line 5 of paragraph [0018], and thus, this amendment does not constitute new matter. In addition, with regard to Claim 23, Claim 23 has been amended to include the first thickness being between "greater than or equal to 0.5 mm and 1.2 mm." Support for this amendment can be found in at least line 7 of paragraph [0018], and thus, this amendment does not constitute new matter. Claim 29 has been amended to remove the reference to "rigid." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 22, 23 and 29 for lack of support under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

With regard to Claims 2-7, 9-13, 20, 21, and 24-27, Applicants note these claims depend directly or indirectly from either independent Claims 1, 8, 19 or 28 and, thus, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claims 1, 8, 19 and 28 above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and

withdraw the rejections of Claims 2-7, 9-13, 20, 21, and 24-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 27-2006

By: _____
Christopher A. Eusebi, Reg. No. 44,672
Erica K. Schaefer, Reg. No. 55,861

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

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